

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/078 W

-----261214Z 050457 /10

O R 261151Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9870
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01380

FOR EMBASSY CAPE TOWN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CROSLAND STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT

REFERENCE: LONDON 1362

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND'S STATEMENT ON RHODESIA IN PARLIAMENT, JANUARY 25.
2. BEGIN TEXT: AS I TOLD THE HOUSE ON DECEMBER 14, I AUTHORIZED MR. RICHARD TO ADJOURN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE AND TO UNDERTAKE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH A VIEW TO LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT ON AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.
IN PARTICULAR, I ASKED HIM TO DEVELOP WITH THE PARTIES SOME NEW AND POSITIVE IDEAS, INCLUDING OUR IDEAS ON THE DIRECT ROLE WHICH BRITAIN WOULD BE READY TO PLAY IN THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.
FOLLOWING MR. RICHARD'S FIRST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS, WE SET OUT WHAT WE HAD IN MIND IN A DOCUMENT WHICH WAS

GIVEN TO EACH OF THE GENEVA DELEGATIONS, THE FOUR
AFRICAN FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND MR. VORSTER.
THE SUGGESTIONS IN THE PAPER DID NOT CONSTITUTE A CUT
AND DRIED BRITISH PLAN. NOR WERE THEY PRESENTED ON A
"TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT" BASIS. THEY WERE INTENDED TO
PROVIDE A SERIOUS AND DETAILED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS,
AND WERE OPEN TO AMENDMENT AND MODIFICATION IN THE LIGHT
OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.
BUT IN OUR VIEW THESE PROPOSALS REPRESENTED A
REASONABLE WAY FORWARD.
THEY WERE DESIGNED TO MEET THE CONCERN OF THE NA-
TIONALISTS THAT THE TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE SHOULD BE
RAPID AND IRREVERSIBLE, AND OF THE WHITE RHODESIANS THAT
IT SHOULD BE PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY.
THEY WOULD HAVE LED TO THE ENDING OF THE WAR, AND THE
LIFTING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.
THEY WERE SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, AND
WOULD HAVE SET THE STAGE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL TRUST FUND
TO HELP DEVELOP THE RHODESIAN ECONOMY AND GIVE FINANCIAL
REASSURANCE TO RHODESIAN EUROPEANS.
THEY WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A BASIS FOR A PROSPEROUS,
INDEPENDENT AND NON-RACIAL RHODESIA.
IT WAS THEREFORE WITH A DEEP SENSE OF DISAPPOINTMENT
THAT WE LEARNT YESTERDAY THAT MR. SMITH, ALONE OF THE
PARTIES, HAD REJECTED THE IDEAS WHICH WE HAD PUT TO HIM,
EVEN AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATION. MR. SMITH
CLAIMS TO HAVE LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS
BY EXPRESSING HIS READINESS TO IMPLEMENT THE "FIVE POINTS"
PUT TO HIM BY DR. KISSINGER IN SEPTEMBER LAST YEAR.
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BUT IT WAS CLEAR FROM AN EARLY STAGE OF THE GENEVA

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NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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-----261215Z 050466 /10

O R 261151Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9871

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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FOR EMB CAPETOWN

CONFERENCE THAT THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS COULD NOT AGREE TO ACCEPT THESE PROPOSALS AS A BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. THAT WAS WHY WE PUT FORWARD OUR OWN IDEAS WHICH WE BELIEVED OFFERED A REASONABLE WAY OF BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

MR. SMITH HAS CLAIMED THAT OUR PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE LED TO CHAOS AND MARXIST RULE. BUT IF THERE IS SUCH A RISK, IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY TO BE CREATED BY HIS REJECTION OF THESE PROPOSALS. HE HAS ONCE MORE SHOWN HIS INABILITY TO FACE REALITY.

WE HAVE TO ACCEPT THAT THIS PRESENT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS IS AT AN END. WE NOW NEED--ALL OF US--TO TAKE STOCK AND TO MAKE A COOL APPRAISAL OF THE NEW SITUATION.
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I HAVE INSTRUCTED MR. RICHARD TO REMAIN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA FOR A FEW MORE DAYS TO DISCUSS THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WITH SOME OF THE PARTIES. HE WILL THEN RETURN TO REPORT TO ME WITH A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE ATTITUDES AND EXPECTATIONS OF THOSE CONCERNED.

YESTERDAY'S EVENTS REPRESENT A SERIOUS SETBACK TO ALL OUR HOPES FOR PEACE IN RHODESIA. WE MUST NOW GIVE INTENSIVE STUDY TO ANY OPTIONS WHICH MAY STILL BE OPEN TO USE IN THIS NEW SITUATION. FOR OUR GOAL REMAINS A PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY TRANSFER TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA.
END TEXT

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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